

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 15-22, and 24-26, as amended, are pending in this application. In this Response, Applicants have amended certain claims. In light of the Office Action, Applicants believe these amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, and are desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

In particular, claims 3 and 10 have been amended to further clarify features of the present invention. As no new matter has been added, Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments at this time.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-2, 5-6, 10/1, 11/1, 11/5, 12-13, 15-16, 17/5, 18-22, and 24-26. As discussed below, the remaining pending claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3-4, 6, 7/1, 7/3, 8-9, 10/3, 11/3, and 17/3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. As a threshold matter, Applicants note that claims 7 and 10 were previously amended to depend from claims 1 or 5, not 3. As such, for the purposes of this response, Applicants assume that the Examiner intended to reject claims 7 and 10 based on their respective dependencies from claims 1 or 5, not 3.

Applicant has amended claims 3 and 10 in an effort to address the Examiner's concerns.

With regard to the strikethrough used in the previously submitted amendment to claim 7, Applicants apologize for any inconvenience based on the use of the strikethrough rather than brackets. The original formula in claim 7 intended to be deleted from the claim is now bracketed. However, Applicants have left the status indicator as "Thrice Amended" due the fact that nothing further has been amended in this response.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections are overcome.

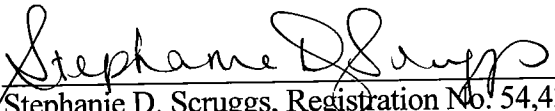
CONCLUSION

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the present remarks still do not resolve all of the issues regarding patentability of the pending claims, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any remaining issues.

No fees are believed to be due at this time. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Hanify & King, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-4545, Order No. 5222-033-RE.

Respectfully submitted,
HANIFY & KING
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